



## and the War on Terrorism

Each of the services in October announced decreases of reserve-component members on active duty in support of the partial mobilization. At press time, 31,324 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers were on active duty. The total number of reserve-component personnel for all services was 59,990, including both units and individual augmentees.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced six concept finalists in the Pentagon Memorial competition after a jury reviewed 1,126 entries that met competition rules. Each competitor received a stipend to help defray costs of further development of their ideas, and jurors will meet again this month to select the winning concept. The site for the memorial is on the grounds of the Pentagon near where the hijacked airliner hit the building on Sept. 11, 2001.

Congress passed military spending legislation that gives the Department of Defense a nearly \$40 billion boost as it continues the war on terrorism and prepares for possible war with Iraq. President George W. Bush said the budget increase will "provide our troops with the best pay, the best equipment and the best possible training. It also sends an important signal that we are committed to defending freedom and defeating terror."

Selected special forces noncommissioned officers near retirement are being offered cash bonuses if they choose to remain on active duty. Soldiers with various specialties are eligible to receive an \$8,000- to \$10,000-a-year bonus if they sign on for two or more years of service. The re-enlistment incentives followed a September announcement that soldiers who had been affected by Stop-Loss initiatives would be allowed to request voluntary separation from the Army. Since Stop-Loss was partially lifted, some personnel officials were concerned that the Army would lose some of its retirement-eligible soldiers in military occupational specialties that are already short.

The Afghan National Army gained a third battalion when more than 360 trainees graduated Oct. 3 and departed for a Ministry of Defense facility outside the city. The 1st Bn., 3rd Special Forces Group, from Fort Bragg, N.C., trained two of the first three battalions that went through the program, and began training the fifth battalion in late October. French soldiers trained the second and fourth battalions.



**SSG Sterling Deck and SFC Gregory Thompson send Christmas greetings from aboard an E-8C JSTARS aircraft operating high above Afghanistan. The two are members of the sophisticated reconnaissance aircraft's joint-service crew.**

**SPC John Townsend (left) of the 82nd Airborne Division and Spanish army Sgt. Miguel Acosta (right) fire weapons during a familiarization event sponsored by the Italian army contingent in Afghanistan.**

SPC Marie Schult



**Soldiers at Bagram Air Base cheer the start of the NASCAR Monte Carlo 400 auto race, which was televised with four live shots from the allied base in Afghanistan.**



SPC Marie Schult

PFC Matthew Acosta



**PFC Christopher Estrada, a forward observer with the 82nd Airborne Division's 3rd Battalion, 505th Infantry Regiment, radios information to the security-force commander for Afghanistan's Kandahar region.**



**PFC Daniel Williams and PVT Joshua Carr of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, brace themselves as their 120mm mortar fires a round downrange during training near Kandahar Airfield.**



SPC Jason B. Baker